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for such purposes. The issuing of technical bulletins by the stations was discouraged as there are well established avenues for the publication of scientific matter in a way that all libraries, societies and interested individuals can find ready access to it.

As officers for the coming year the following were elected : For chairman, Byron D. Halsted ; for secretary, Dr. Roland Thaxter.

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### BRIEFER ARTICLES.

**Note on the nomenclature of *Uncinula spiralis* B. & C.**—Burrill and Earle, in their *Parasitic Fungi of Illinois*, Part II, p. 406, have described this species under the name *Uncinula ampelopsidis* Pk., giving *U. Americana* Pk. (1872), *U. spiralis* B. & C. (1876), and *U. subfusca* B. & C. (1876) as synonyms in the order named. These authors evidently overlooked the fact that as long ago as 1857 Berkeley, in his *Introduction to Cryptogamic Botany* (p. 278, fig. 64), figured two appendages and a six spored ascus of what is undoubtedly this fungus, giving below the figure the name *Uncinula spiralis* Berkeley & Curtiss. There seems to be no good reason why we should not accept this name which is adopted by Farlow & Seymour in their *Provisional Host Index*. As the scope of the latter work forbids explanations we thought the present one might not be out of place. Accepting Berkeley and Curtiss' name, we have for the species, then, the following synonymy :

*UNCINULA SPIRALIS* B. & C., *Introduction to Cryptogamic Botany*, p. 278, fig. 64, 1857.

*U. ampelopsidis* Pk., *Trans. Albany Inst.*, Vol. VII, p. 216, 1872.

*U. Americana* Howe, *Erysiphei of the United States*, *Journal of Botany*, 1872.

*U. subfusca* B. & C., *Grev.* IV. p. 160, 1876.—B. T. GALLOWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

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### OPEN LETTERS.

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#### On priority of place in biological nomenclature.

The publication of my note in the October *Journal of Botany* giving my reasons for taking up the generic name *Tissa* instead of *Buda* for the plants referred by recent authors to *Lepigonum* or *Spergularia*, and the comments thereon by the learned editor, have put my position on this question squarely on record. I was sorry to have to take the means I did in order to induce him to print my communication, but I desired that my views should be given place in an English botanical journal as well as in those of America. Mr. Britten, regarding my reasons as trivial,